North Dakota
# FARM REPORTER

Issue: 01-04 January 8, 2004



## HOG INVENTORY

**North Dakota**
The all hogs and pigs inventory as of December 1, 2003, set a record low for North Dakota at 150,000 head. The total hog and pig inventory in the state was down 3 percent from both 2001 and 2002. The largest December 1 inventory in the last 10 years was 320,000 head in 1993. These estimates are based on a survey conducted around December 1.

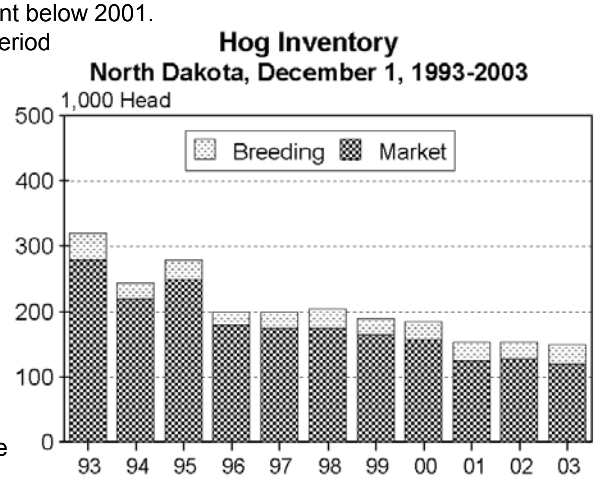
Breeding inventory totaled 30,000 head, up from 26,000 head in 2002. The pig crop totaled 420,000, down from 444,000 last year and down from 476,000 in 2001.

Market inventory totaled 120,000 head, down from 128,000 head last year. Market inventory by weight group with respective changes from last year are as follows: 50,000 head weighing under 60 pounds, unchanged from last year; 30,000 head in the 60-119 pound range, down 9 percent; 21,000 head in the 120-179 pound class, down 16 percent; 19,000 head at or over 180 pounds, down 5 percent.

**United States**
United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The September - November 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 25.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 2002, but 1 percent below 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.93 for the September - November period, compared to 8.83 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.




**DECEMBER 1 HOG INVENTORY**

| Item | NORTH DAKOTA 2002 | NORTH DAKOTA 2003 | UNITED STATES 2002 | UNITED STATES 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| INVENTORY | - - - 1,000 Head - - - | | - - - 1,000 Head - - - | |
| All Hogs and Pigs | 154 | 150 | 59,513 | 60,040 |
| Breeding | 26 | 30 | 6,012 | 5,966 |
| Market | 128 | 120 | 53,501 | 54,074 |
| Market Hogs and Pigs | | | | |
| Under 60 Pounds | 50 | 50 | 19,461 | 19,821 |
| 60-119 Pounds | 33 | 30 | 13,054 | 13,250 |
| 120-179 Pounds | 25 | 21 | 10,881 | 10,839 |
| 180 Pounds and Over | 20 | 19 | 10,105 | 10,164 |
| SOWS FARROWING | | | | |
| Dec-Nov 1/ | 52.5 | 47.0 | 11,483 | 11,306 |
| PIG CROP | | | | |
| Dec-Nov 1/ | 444 | 420 | 101,344 | 100,406 |
| PIGS PER LITTER | - - - Head - - - | | - - - Head - - - | |
| Dec-Nov 1/ | 8.46 | 8.94 | 8.83 | 8.88 |

*1/ December preceding year.*

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**North Dakota**
The Index of Prices Received for All Farm Products in December is 118 percent of the 1990-1992 base. This is down 2 percent from last year but 17 percent above two years ago. The All Crops Index, at 120 percent of the base, is down 5 percent from December 2002, while the All Livestock Index, at 111 percent, is up 13 percent from last year. December indexes are calculated using preliminary mid-month prices.

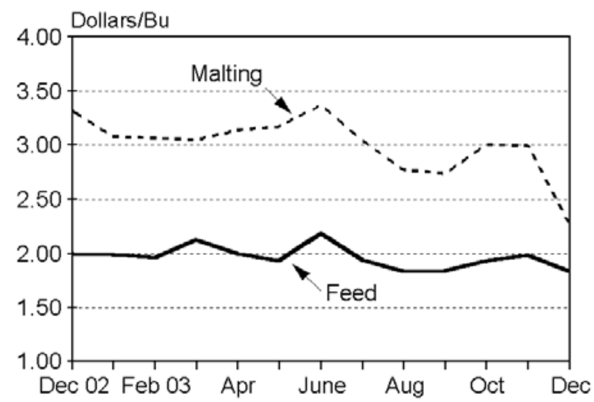
**United States**
The December All Farm Products Index is 115 percent of its 1990-92 base, down 2 percent from the November index but 15 percent above the December 2002 index. The All Crops Index is 117, unchanged from November but 9 percent above the December 2002 index. The Livestock and Products Index, at 113, is down 3 percent from last month but up 24 percent from December 2002.

**INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES, December 2003**

| Indexes and Ratios | NORTH DAKOTA Dec 2002 | NORTH DAKOTA Nov 2003 | NORTH DAKOTA Dec 2003 | UNITED STATES Dec 2002 | UNITED STATES Nov 2003 | UNITED STATES Dec 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (1990-92 = 100) | | | | | |
| PRICES RECEIVED | | | | | | |
| ALL FARM PRODUCTS | 121 | 120 | 118 | 100 | 117 | 115 |
| CROPS | 126 | 123 | 120 | 107 | 117 | 117 |
| Food Grains | 138 | 127 | 125 | 124 | 116 | 119 |
| Feed Grains & Hay | 130 | 116 | 107 | 106 | 99 | 103 |
| Oil Bearing Crops [1] | 111 | 131 | 129 | 98 | 122 | 128 |
| Potatoes & Dry Beans [2] | 113 | 105 | 103 | 109 | 94 | 95 |
| LIVESTOCK | 98 | 113 | 111 | 91 | 117 | 113 |
| Meat Animals | 99 | 116 | 115 | 88 | 116 | 113 |
| Dairy Products | 99 | 95 | 99 | 91 | 111 | 105 |
| Other Livestock Products [3] | 93 | 92 | 93 | 96 | 125 | 121 |
| **PRICES PAID** | | | | 125 | 130 | 130 |
| **RATIO [4]** | | | | 80 | 90 | 88 |

*[1] Includes non-oil sunflower. [2] North Dakota includes sugarbeets. [3] United States excludes wool. [4] Ratio of Index of Prices Received to Index of Prices Paid.*

**Barley Prices Received by Farmers**
**North Dakota, December 2002-December 2003**




**PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, December 2003**

| Commodity | Unit | NORTH DAKOTA Entire Month Dec 2002 | NORTH DAKOTA Entire Month Nov 2003 | NORTH DAKOTA Preliminary Dec 2003 | UNITED STATES Entire Month Dec 2002 | UNITED STATES Entire Month Nov 2003 | UNITED STATES Preliminary Dec 2003 | Effective U.S. Parity Price Dec 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Dollars* | *Dollars* | *Dollars* | *Dollars* | *Dollars* | *Dollars* | *Dollars* |
| Wheat, All | Bu | 3.99 | 3.62 | 3.63 | 4.06 | 3.59 | 3.63 | 9.88 |
| Durum | Bu | 4.19 | 3.89 | 3.82 | 4.26 | 3.91 | 3.84 | |
| Other Spring | Bu | 3.92 | 3.57 | 3.60 | 4.15 | 3.67 | 3.63 | |
| Winter | Bu | 3.07 | 3.24 | 3.27 | 3.87 | 3.55 | 3.62 | |
| Corn | Bu | 2.13 | 2.03 | 2.15 | 2.32 | 2.20 | 2.32 | 6.75 |
| Rye | Bu | | | | | | | 5.95 |
| Oats | Bu | 1.70 | 1.13 | 1.13 | 1.95 | 1.32 | 1.36 | 4.22 |
| Barley, All | Bu | 2.89 | 2.81 | 2.03 | 2.91 | 2.86 | 2.41 | 6.68 |
| Feed | Bu | 2.00 | 1.98 | 1.83 | 2.14 | 2.44 | 1.99 | |
| Malting | Bu | 3.32 | 2.99 | 2.27 | 3.24 | 3.11 | 2.79 | |
| Sunflower, All | Cwt | 11.90 | 12.20 | 12.30 | 12.30 | 11.60 | 12.00 | |
| Oil | Cwt | 11.70 | 10.80 | 11.00 | | | | |
| Non-oil | Cwt | 13.20 | 15.30 | 14.80 | | | | |
| Baled Hay, All [1] | Ton | 61.00 | 52.00 | 55.00 | 91.10 | 80.70 | 81.30 | |
| Alfalfa [1] | Ton | 67.00 | 57.00 | 60.00 | 98.00 | 88.00 | 87.90 | |
| Other [1] | Ton | 48.00 | 40.00 | 43.00 | 76.30 | 64.90 | 66.90 | |
| Canola [2] | Cwt | | 11.00 | | | | | |
| Flaxseed | Bu | 5.92 | 6.06 | 5.97 | 5.92 | 6.06 | 5.97 | 12.20 |
| Soybeans | Bu | 5.24 | 6.87 | 6.91 | 5.46 | 7.05 | 7.29 | 14.80 |
| Dry Edible Beans, All | Cwt | 13.30 | 15.30 | 15.60 | 16.10 | 19.20 | 18.70 | 51.60 |
| Navy | Cwt | 12.40 | 15.60 | | | | | |
| Pinto | Cwt | 13.90 | 14.80 | | | | | |
| Potatoes, All | Cwt | 6.75 | 4.95 | 4.90 | 6.67 | 5.35 | 5.50 | 14.10 |
| Fresh [3] | Cwt | 9.60 | 5.10 | | 8.65 | 6.39 | | |
| Processing | Cwt | 4.35 | 4.80 | | 5.52 | 4.82 | | |
| Beef Cattle | Cwt | 71.30 | 80.70 | 81.60 | 70.40 | 93.70 | 92.70 | 164.00 |
| Steers & Heifers | Cwt | 83.90 | 98.70 | 100.00 | 75.00 | 100.00 | 98.60 | |
| Cows | Cwt | 33.60 | 47.30 | 49.00 | 34.60 | 47.80 | 49.90 | |
| Calves | Cwt | 93.00 | 110.00 | 110.00 | 95.30 | 112.00 | 113.00 | 220.00 |
| Sheep | Cwt | 29.40 | 40.00 | | 38.70 | 40.10 | | 80.70 |
| Lambs | Cwt | 88.70 | 102.00 | | 87.20 | 99.20 | | 189.00 |
| Hogs | Cwt | 34.30 | 37.60 | | 30.30 | 34.80 | 34.90 | 105.00 |

*[1] Alfalfa, other and all hay are preliminary prices only. [2] Monthly price added July 2003. [3] Fresh market prices only, includes table stock.*

**Wheat:** Projected U.S. 2003/04 ending stocks of wheat are 25 million bushels lower than last month due to a 25 million bushel increase in exports. The projection for larger exports is based on stronger than expected shipments to date and an increase in the world wheat import forecast. All of the increase in exports is projected to occur in the HRW class. Projected imports and domestic use are unchanged. However, changes in the allocation of imports by class result in an 18 million bushel increase in SRW supplies and ending stocks. Offsetting decreases in HRW and White wheat supplies and ending stocks also are projected. Similar, but smaller, changes are made in the by class estimates for 2002/03. The December 15 ERS Wheat Outlook report provides more details. The projected 2003/04 wheat price range is up 10 cents on the lower end to $3.20 to $3.40 per bushel.

**Coarse Grains:** Projected 2003/04 U.S. feed grain ending stocks are lowered by just over 1 million tons because of larger exports. Projected corn exports are 50 million bushels larger than last month due to less competition from Argentina, the stronger than expected pace of corn export sales to date, and recent sales made to nontraditional markets (Malaysia and Indonesia). Projected corn feed and residual use is unchanged. Despite a significant export price premium for sorghum versus corn, projected sorghum exports are up 10 million bushels due to larger than expected sales to the EU. The EU applies a lower import duty to sorghum than to corn. However, projected sorghum feed and residual is lowered 10 million bushels. Projected corn ending stocks are down 50 million bushels from last month but projected sorghum stocks are unchanged. Because of stronger than expected prices and a reduction in corn ending stocks, the projected 2003/04 price range for corn is raised 10 cents on each end to $2.00 to $2.40 per bushel.

**Sugar:** Projected U.S. sugar production for fiscal year 2003/04 is increased 74,000 short tons, raw value, from last month, based on processors' production projections compiled by the Farm Service Agency. Beet sugar production is up 78,000 tons, more than offsetting a small decrease in cane sugar. Total use is unchanged. The total stocks to use ratio is 20.6 percent, compared with 19.8 percent last month. The balance sheet for 2002/03 reflects minor changes.

**Livestock, Poultry and Dairy:** The total meat production forecast for 2003 is reduced as lower expected beef production more than offsets higher expected pork production. Fourth quarter beef production forecasts are reduced from last month as the pace of cattle slaughter and slaughter weights have been well below last year. Conversely, the pace of hog slaughter has been higher than expected and the fourth quarter forecast of pork production is raised. Changes in broiler and turkey production forecasts reflect NASS third quarter slaughter data.

Forecast beef production for 2004 is unchanged from last month. Production is expected to be below 2003 as lower cattle inventories and slaughter more than offset an expected recovery in weights. Imports of Canadian cattle will not be assumed until a resumption of trade is announced by the U.S. government. The production forecast for pork is raised as large imports of hogs from Canada are expected to continue into early 2004. NASS's Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report released on December 30, provides an indication of U.S. producers' production intentions for 2004. Total poultry production for 2004 is raised as higher forecast broiler production more than offsets a reduced turkey production forecast. Eggs set data point to more rapid growth in broiler production than forecast last month. Turkey production forecasts are reduced from last month as weak returns are now expected to keep production below year earlier levels through the middle of 2004. Egg production in 2004 is forecast to rise slightly from 2003 as producers respond to high prices.

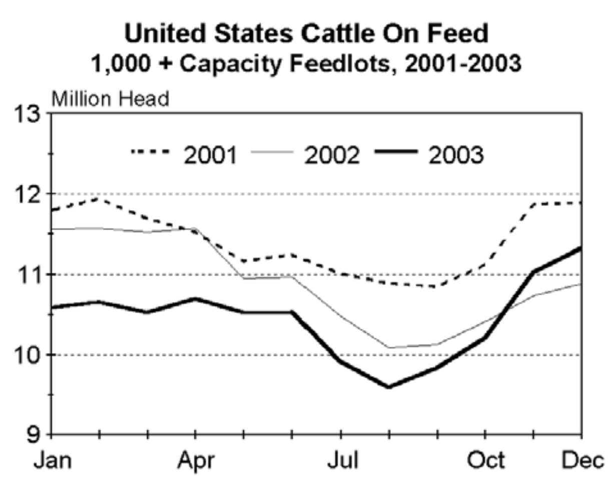
**Source:** ***World Agricultural Supply & Demand Estimates*, WAOB, USDA, December 11, 2003**

## CATTLE ON FEED

**United States**
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2003. The inventory was 4 percent above December 1, 2002 but 5 percent below December 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.93 million, 3 percent below 2002 but 1 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.83 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 680,000, 600-699 pounds were 578,000, 700-799 pounds were 379,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 289,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.54 million, 11 percent below 2002 and 15 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during November, 8 percent above 2002 and 21 percent above 2001.



## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

**United States**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.53 billion pounds in November, down 10 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in November 2002. November 2002 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. November 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

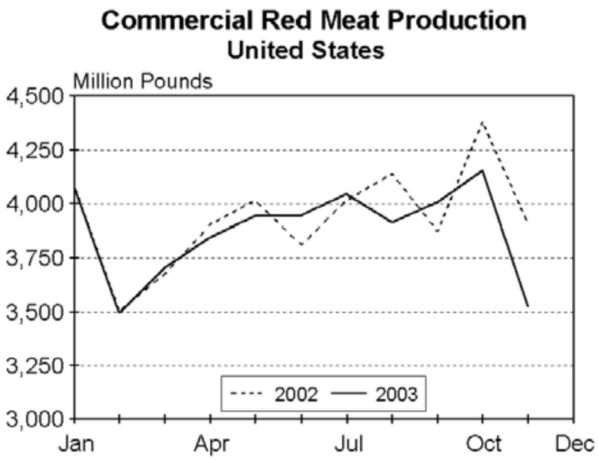
Beef production, at 1.78 billion pounds, was 18 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 15 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was down 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,236 pounds.

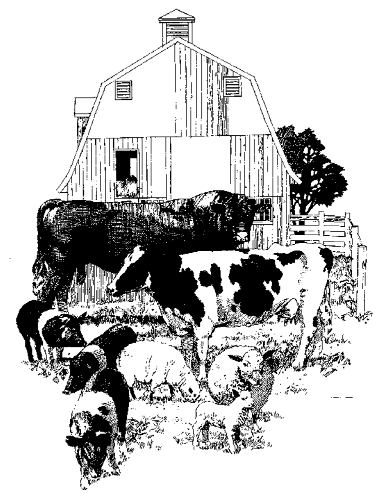
Veal production totaled 15.2 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 78,000 head, down 14 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.58 million head, 1 percent below November 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 8 percent from November 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 236,300 head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 6 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2003 commercial red meat production was 42.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.



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